(c) Government of India has taken the step to encourage the fruit and vegetable industry by exempting it from excise duty.

[English]

Cruelties in Tihar Jail

5759. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports of atrocities and cruelties on prison inmates in Tihar Jail, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set right the affairs of the Tihar Jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). No complaint of atrocities and cruelties on prison inmates in Tihar Jail, has been made to the Government. There was, however, a news item captioned 'plea to stop 'tortures' in Tihar Jail' appearing in Hindustan Times in its issue of August, 4, 1991. The news item referred to a writ petition reportedly filed in the Supreme Court alleging the pushing into an oven, of a prisoner, on July 17, by the jail staff, for refusing to be a cook in the Jain kitchen. The Jain authorities have reported that the allegation is not correct. According to them, the convict, while putting chapatis into an oven, suddenly started vomitting and his leg fell into the oven thereby sustaining burns. He was provided medical aid and taken to the hospital and he has since recovered.

Re-imposition of Tractor (Distribution and Sale) Control Order, 1971

5760. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the, Government propose to re-impose the 'Tractor (Distribution and Sale) Control Order-1971,

(b) whether the dealers are charging the full cost of the tractor without deducting interest accrued on initial deposits made at the time of registration by the farmers and they are also not getting the tractor according to turn;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to issue interest free of low interest loan to the poor farmers for the purchase of tractor and also without taking any security; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). On receipt of the complaints from some consumers, the tractor manufacturers have been requested to ensure that their dealers accept full payment towards the cost of tractor only against delivery.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of reply to part (d), the question does not arise.

Solidarity day in Kashmir

5761. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the battle dress parades in Kashmir Valley on the "Solidarity day" Bandh by the militants; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?